AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication support apparatus comprising:

an acquisition unit configured to acquire source-language information represented in a first language;

a first determination unit configured to determine a level of importance of the source-language information;

a setting unit configured to set, based on the level of importance, an accuracy of translation with which the source-language information is translated into corresponding language information represented in a second language; and

a translation unit configured to translate the source-language information into the corresponding language information with the accuracy,

wherein the setting unit sets the accuracy of translation based on a level of emergency as the level of importance, the level of emergency being higher as a feeling of emergency expressed in the source-language information becomes more intense.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The communication support apparatus according to claim [[2]] 1, further comprising:

a providing unit configured to provide stimulation to a user if the level of importance is higher than a threshold value;

a stimulation determination unit configured to determine whether or not the user

confirms the stimulation;

an interruption unit configured to interrupt providing of the stimulation if the

stimulation determination unit determines that the user confirms the stimulation; and

an increasing unit configured to increase the stimulation if the stimulation

determination unit determines that the user fails to confirm the stimulation.

4. (Original) The communication support apparatus according to claim 3,

wherein the providing unit is configured to provide, as the stimulation, at least one of

light stimulation, sound stimulation, physical stimulation caused by a physical

movement, and electrical stimulation.

5. (Currently Amended) A communication support apparatus comprising:

an acquisition unit configured to acquire source-language information

represented in a first language;

a first determination unit configured to determine a level of importance of the

source-language information;

a translation unit configured to translate the source-language information into

corresponding language information represented in a second language;

an exhibit unit configured to exhibit the corresponding language information;

a setting unit configured to set, based on the level of importance, a process

accuracy with which at least one of an acquisition process to be carried out by the

acquisition unit, a translation process to be carried out by the translation unit, and an

exhibit process to be carried out by the exhibit unit is performed; and

an execution unit configured to execute at least one of the acquisition process, the translation process and the exhibit process with the process accuracy,

wherein the first determination unit comprises:

a first storage unit storing important keywords of the first language; and

a comparison unit configured to compare the source-language information with the important keywords.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The communication support apparatus according to claim [[6]] 5, wherein:

the first storage further stores a score corresponding to each important keyword; and

the comparison unit extracts each compared important keyword and the score corresponding to each compared important keyword, and determines the level of importance based on the score.

8. (Original) The communication support apparatus according to claim 5, wherein:

the setting unit sets, for the translation process, a high accuracy mode in which a high accuracy translation is performed, if the level of importance is higher than a threshold value, and a high speed mode in which a high speed translation is performed, if the level of importance is not higher than the threshold value.

9. (Currently Amended) The communication support apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the setting unit changes, in accordance with a set one of the high accuracy mode and the high speed mode, at least one of a [[the]] number of candidates of expressions of the second language used to determine which one of the expressions corresponds to an expression contained in the source-language information, a range in a dictionary used for translating the source-language information into the corresponding language information, an available memory capacity, a process time required for the translation process, a process speed at which the translation process is performed.

10. (Original) The communication support apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the comparison unit determines the level of importance based on a sum of scores corresponding to the important keywords contained in the source-language information.

11. (Currently Amended) The communication support apparatus according to claim 5 [[6]], wherein:

the first determination unit further comprises a second storage which stores similar keywords similar to the important keywords of the first language; and

the comparison unit compares the source-language information with the similar keywords.

12. (Original) The communication support apparatus according to claim 11, wherein:

the second storage further stores similarities corresponding to the similar keywords; and

the comparison unit extracts compared similar keywords and the similarities corresponding to the compared similar keywords, and determines the level of importance based on the similarities.

13. (Original) The communication support apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the setting unit sets a high accuracy mode for a high accuracy translation, if at least one of each score and each similarity is higher than a threshold value.

14. (Original) The communication support apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

a providing unit configured to provide stimulation to a user if the level of importance is higher than a threshold value;

a stimulation determination unit configured to determine whether or not the user confirms the stimulation;

an interruption unit configured to interrupt providing of the stimulation if the stimulation determination unit determines that the user confirms the stimulation; and

an increasing unit configured to increase the stimulation if the stimulation determination unit determines that the user fails to confirm the stimulation.

15. (Original) The communication support apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the providing unit is configured to provide, as the stimulation, at least one of light stimulation, sound stimulation, physical stimulation caused by a physical movement, and electrical stimulation.

16. (Original) The communication support apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a rhythm analysis unit configured to analyze a rhythm of acquired source-language information, and wherein the first determination unit determines the level of importance based on the rhythm.

17. (Original) The communication support apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the first determination unit comprises a detection unit configured to detect a level of tension of a user, and a second determination unit which determines the level of importance based on the level of tension.

18. (Original) The communication support apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the rhythm analysis unit analyzes the rhythm which includes at least one of an intonation, a pitch, power, a pause position, a pause length, an accent position, an utterance-continued period, an utterance interval and an utterance speed.

19. (Original) The communication support apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a living body analysis unit configured to analyze living body information of a user if the source-language information is acquired, and the first determination unit determines the level of importance based on the living body information.

20. (Original) The communication support apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the first determination unit comprises a detection unit configured to detect a level of tension of a user based on the living body information, and a second determination unit configured to determine the level of importance based on the level of tension.

21. (Original) The communication support apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the living body information includes at least one of a breathing speed, a breathing depth, a pulse speed, a blood pressure, a blood sugar level, a body temperature, a skin potential, and a perspiration amount.

22. (Original) The communication support apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a communication unit configured to enable the apparatus to communicate with a translation device which translates the source language information into the corresponding language information, and wherein if the level of importance is determined to be higher than a threshold value, the communication unit is connected to the translation device to transmit the source-language information to the translation device and receive a translation result from the translation device.

23. (Original) The communication support apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the acquisition unit acquires the source-language information in a form of voice information, and includes a conversion unit configured to convert the voice information into text information.

24. (Original) The communication support apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the exhibit unit includes a conversion unit configured to convert the corresponding language information into voice information.

25. (Original) The communication support apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

a first storage which stores the source-language information;

a first reproduction unit configured to reproduce the source-language information;

a second storage which stores the corresponding language information;

a second reproduction unit configured to reproduce the corresponding language information;

an operation start unit configured to start an operation of at least one of the first storage, the first reproduction unit, the second storage and the second reproduction unit, if the level of importance is higher than a threshold value.

26. (Original) The communication support apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the setting unit sets the accuracy of translation based on a level of emergency as the level of importance.

27. (Currently Amended) A communication support method comprising:

acquiring source-language information represented in a first language;

determining a level of importance of the source-language information;

translating the source-language information into corresponding language information represented in a second language;

exhibiting the corresponding language information;

setting, based on the level of importance, a process accuracy with which at least one of an acquisition process for acquiring the source-language information, a translation process for translating the source-language information into the corresponding language information, and an exhibit process for exhibiting the corresponding language information is performed; and

executing at least one of the acquisition process, the translation process and the exhibit process with the process accuracy,

wherein determining the level of importance comprises:

storing important keywords of the first language in a first storage unit; and

comparing the source-language information with the important keywords.

28. (Original) The communication support method according to claim 27, wherein setting the process accuracy includes setting, for the translation process, a high accuracy mode in which a high accuracy translation is performed, if the level of importance is higher than a threshold value, and a high speed mode in which a high speed translation is performed, if the level of importance is not higher than the certain threshold value.

29. (Original) The communication support method according to claim 27, further comprising communicating with a translation device which translates the source-language information into the corresponding language information, and wherein if the level of importance is determined to be higher than a threshold value, transmitting the source-language information to the translation device and receiving a translation result from the translation device.

30. (Currently Amended) A ~~communication support program stored in a~~ computer readable storage medium[[,]] storing instructions for implementing a method, the method comprising:

~~means for instructing a computer to acquire~~ acquiring source-language information represented in a first language;

~~means for instructing the computer to determine~~ determining a level of importance of the source-language information;

~~means for instructing the computer to translate~~ translating the source-language

information into corresponding language information represented in a second language;

~~means for instructing the computer to exhibit~~ exhibiting the corresponding

language information;

~~means for instructing the computer to set~~ setting, based on the level of

importance, a process accuracy with which at least one of an acquisition process to be

carried out by the means for instructing the computer to determine the level, a

translation process to be carried out by the means for instructing the computer to

translate the source-language information, and an exhibit process to be carried out by

the means for instructing the computer to exhibit the corresponding language

information is performed; and

~~means for instructing the computer to execute~~ executing at least one of the

acquisition process, the translation process and the exhibit process with the process

accuracy,

wherein determining the level of importance comprises:

storing important keywords of the first language in a first storage unit; and

comparing the source-language information with the important keywords.

31. (Currently Amended) The <u>computer-readable storage medium</u> ~~communication support program~~ according to claim 30, wherein ~~the means for instructing the computer to set~~ <u>setting</u> the process accuracy instructs <u>a</u> [[the]] computer to set, for the translation process, a high accuracy mode in which a high accuracy translation is performed, if the level of importance is higher than a threshold value, and a high speed mode in which a high speed translation is performed, if the level of importance is not higher than the threshold value.

32. (Currently Amended) The <u>computer-readable storage medium</u> ~~communication support program~~ according to claim 30, further comprising ~~means for instructing the computer to communicate~~ <u>communicating</u> with a translation device which translates the source-language information into the corresponding language information, and wherein if the level of importance is determined to be higher than a threshold value, ~~the means for instructing the computer to communicate~~ <u>transmitting</u> ~~with the translation device is connected to the translation device to transmit~~ the source-language information to the translation device and receive a translation result from the translation device.